

mainland in the last ten years have amounted to more than \$25 billion. Our investments have enabled the mainland to build foreign exchange reserves and created jobs. Influx of our capital has improved living standards and relieved poverty and backwardness among the mainland Chinese population.

5. Beijing should accept us as an equal partner. We seek to have better relations with the mainland. We do not want to see Chinese fighting Chinese, not in Taiwan Strait, nor on international arena, but rather Chinese helping Chinese. Our compatriots on the mainland and we share a common ethnic bond.

6. In Taiwan there is no support for a reckless or precipitate reunification with the mainland at the moment, certainly not under the terms or formula set forth by the PRC, such as the so-called "One State, Two Systems" Formula, which definitely is inapplicable and unacceptable to ROC on Taiwan.

7. We will continue our "pragmatic diplomacy" which means that we will seek friends and allies everywhere and want the world to know that we exist. We will seek to expand our trade and cultural offices in over 150 countries and regions, in addition to the 30 nations that have formal ties with us. We will also seek to join international organizations, including the UN, and her peripheral organizations, because we have so much to contribute to the world.

8. Our ultimate goal is for the world to recognize us as a full member of the international community. We are well aware how important and difficult the process of reintegration into the international community will be for Taiwan. However, we have the resources and commitment that will allow us to make our positive contribution to peace, prosperity and good will in the world.

9. We will take full responsibility for our own destiny, but we believe that as an economically prosperous and democratically free nation seeking its proper place in the world, we can expect the nations of the world, particularly the European nations to assist us in this task.

10. We are prepared, too, to shoulder our share of responsibility for helping and assisting other nations, including mainland China, not in the spirit of paternalism or dominance but mutual cooperation and respect.

Looking forward towards the 21st century, I foresee a vibrant Republic of China actively promoting economic and trade cooperation with all regions around the world, but with emphasis on two areas—members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the mainland China. This type of economic and trade cooperation will strengthen the regional economic infrastructure and will stimulate the flow of resources throughout the region, leading to further economic growth as we seek to become an Asia-Pacific regional operation center by the year 2000.

While pursuing economic growth and strength, the perfection of our democratic system remains to be our most cherished and most urged goal in our national policy. We firmly believe that no country could ever become a truly great country until it becomes fully democratic.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, with your understanding, sympathy and genuine support, as a democratic and sovereign state, in the midst of challenges, unfair, unequal treatments and tests of all kind, we, the Republic of China on Taiwan, shall rise up again.

I thank you all so much.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution, along with Congressman STENY HOYER, that will allow the National SAFE KIDS campaign to use a small portion of the Capitol Hill grounds to conduct a car seat safety check. This initiative, called SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP, is a joint initiative between the National SAFE KIDS campaign and General Motors Corp. to educate families about the importance of buckling up on every ride. Child passenger safety is on the minds of citizens nationwide. This program will provide parents and caregivers with essential information about properly securing children in an automobile.

This is not an insignificant issue, Mr. Speaker. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death to children ages 14 and under, yet 40 percent of children are still riding unrestrained. More disturbing is the fact that, of children who are buckled up, 8 out of 10 are restrained incorrectly. Each year more than 1,400 children die as motor vehicle passengers, and an additional 280,000 are injured. Tragically, most of these injuries could have been prevented. Car seats are proven life savers, reducing the risk of death by 69 percent for infants and 47 percent for toddlers.

It will take a nationwide effort to combat this problem. SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP is a grassroots effort that will disseminate key safety messages through more than 200 SAFE KIDS Coalition, health and education outlets like hospitals and Community Health Centers, and GM dealerships in all 50 States. In addition, educational workshops and car seat check up events will be available at participating GM dealerships.

The program launch, highlighted by a car seat check up for local Federal employees, congressional members and staff, and others from the Metropolitan area, is set for Thursday, August 28, at the foot of the U.S. Capitol to kick off Labor Day Weekend, one of the busiest travel weekends of the year. I am honored to say that I am supporting this event and the overall program along with Congressman HOYER. We urge everyone to support this concurrent resolution allowing this event to take place. Protecting our children is a national issue that deserve national attention.

THE SPIRIT OF MARGE AHRENS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, finding individuals who are truly dedicated to their life's occupation is a special experience. People who believe in their work enhance the quality of everything they do, and set a powerful example to others of how concentration can make the

ordinary into something stellar. Next week, the friends and family of Marge Ahrens will be celebrating her work with a retirement party that they have dedicated as the Spirit of Marge Ahrens.

The child of Lucille and Claire Johnson, she came from Harbor Beach, MI, to Bay City, with her husband Fred in August 1967, she became director of library and media services for elementary schools in Bangor Township. She continued her education, earning her master of arts in library science and media specialist. Her contributions over 30 years in education are truly impressive.

She has been involved with several school districts: Bangor Township Schools, Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District, and Essexville-Hampton Public Schools. She has served as a teacher, a career education consultant, a member of the State Planning Committee for State and Federal Grants, and a key component of several music, drama, and art programs. She assisted with summer enrichment programs at Bangor Township and in Caseville. She was very involved with the Bay Arts Council and the Bay Music Foundation, as well as the Essexville Baptist Community Church. She has also been heralded for her work on a MIA-POW Program which, in part, honored the memory of Col. Bruce G. Johnson, Sr., of Harbor Beach, MI.

Marge is also a great supporter of her sons, Andy and Kevin, and has provided them with skilled and loving encouragement from their time as young children to their time as young adults. She successfully blended the roles of mother, teacher, facilitator, and motivator into a combination that is truly deserving of praise.

Mr. Speaker, her friends and family who have worked to put together this event in her honor said in a most special way when in their program for the surprise celebration of a chapter in the life of Marjory Clare Ahrens they wrote: "Some people talk about service, some people live service. Further some watch things happen, some let things happen and others make things happen." They honor her for having made things happen. Today I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Marge Ahrens for years of accomplishment, and in wishing her the very best for all years to come.

STATEMENT BY MARK GEORGE AND MARY NEWMAN, HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL, HANOVER, NH, REGARDING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by high school students from Hanover High School in Hanover, NH, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Mr. GEORGE. By supporting affirmative action it is being demonstrated that content of character is less important than the color of skin. Students are being accepted not because they have the qualifications, but because they are Asian, African or Spanish. They are being put into an environment that they are not necessarily ready for. It is like putting a team of basketball players on the

ice with hockey players and saying, All is fair; compete.

The problem is not mixing minorities and whites so all are fairly represented, but rather the continuing problem of minorities being lesser qualified. They are being inadequately educated in kindergarten through 12th grade and the government doesn't step in until after graduation. It is not making amends for the injustices of slavery or separate equality but what it is doing is converting, covering up problems with the current system, problems of funding for proper books and classrooms in public schools. Public schools, that means it is the government's problem with money, not entirely of race.

As of 1995, the University of California was accepting only about half of their students based on grades and test scores. The rest were a complex equation that awarded points to minorities and women, and while 565 black students applied to Northwestern in 1996, only 120 were among the entering class of 1,850. In 1993, out of approximately 400,000 black high school seniors nationwide, only 1,644 had combined scores of 1,200 and better on SATs.

Finally, in 1995, Pete Wilson, Governor of California as President of the University of California's Board of Regents voted to end affirmative action programs that considered race, gender or ethnic origin on admissions. At the same time polsters of two-thirds of California's voting population and a growing majority of men opposed quotas. We need to stop compensating for the lack of early education and start teaching.

Ms. NEWMAN. Although the United States has made progress toward protecting its people from discrimination, our nation hasn't come far enough. If our goal is to create a society of equal opportunity, there are a lot of things that we as a country need to do to make that happen.

Since the late 1960s our nation has instituted an affirmative action program. The purpose of affirmative action was originally to end discrimination in the workplace. It has been a futile attempt, however, to make up for years of neglect by our society and its government to do something about racism.

One example of the inadequacy of affirmative action can be found in Texas. In 1994, the University of Texas law school was sued because it had to set up separate admissions standards for white and black students. In a mirror image of the 1950s, the different standards were not to keep out qualified blacks but qualified whites. The reason for this which the lawsuit revealed was looking at the LSAT results in 1992, only 88 blacks in the country had scores higher than the median for white students at the highly selective law school. On scores alone, the school would have admitted nine black applicants to its engineering class of 500 students. Yet affirmative action called for a certain proportion of African Americans to graduate from Texas colleges.

This huge discrepancy between black and white scores has to do with problems that our government is neglecting to solve within minority groups. Ignoring the fact that the black scores weren't sufficient enough for admission will not solve our problems nor will the other laws that require businesses to accept a certain number of people from a certain minority. They only worsen them. They produce the feeling of inferiority among minorities and create negative stereotypes in the minds of the majority. White, educated, upper-middle-class residents are getting angry because they are losing their privileges. They feel that they are now the discriminated segment of our population.

We have given affirmative action a chance to lessen tensions among the people who

make up our society, yet it hasn't been enough. There needs to be a different approach to this program and it needs to be stronger than simply handing out privileges. Our government needs to focus on resolving issues of poverty, of unemployment, of public education and the collapse of family structures that face minority groups in America.

If people start feeling good about themselves, if they start feeling like they have a chance to be just like anybody else without unfair advantages from the government, only then will they feel that they are an equal citizen of the United States. Only then will there be space provided for individuals of any color and any religion, any background in either gender to achieve the success that has to be won, not provided for.

Mr. GEORGE. What they are doing now is unnecessary—they do not always accept people or advance people based on—they are doing it too much on the color or by their gender.

Ms. NEWMAN. I think it is definitely appropriate for the government to recognize that there aren't as many of the kind of person, a race in something like a police department or whatever, I think it is appropriate for the government to say maybe there is a problem, maybe there is discrimination, but for the government to make laws that say that maybe a certain number of white students cannot be accepted into a college because there has to be a certain number of black students, that is not appropriate.

Mr. GEORGE. There are blacks that have achieved and there are Jackie Robinsons, there are Jesse Jacksons, I mean there are blacks that can succeed and if you teach kids in school that they can achieve just as much as a white student can, then they think it is a lot more possible.

Ms. NEWMAN. I do not think you can say "tough luck" but you cannot wait until people are—how do I say this? If you want to promote the feeling that I can be this kind of person, I am a woman and even though I never see any women carpenters I can be that person if I want to, but that has to be promoted before. People have to work at that when people are young, when people—like using the black example again, if a black person says I cannot be this kind of person because I am black and because there is discrimination, that problem has to be solved not by giving that person an advantage which would be an unfair advantage, they have to solve that problem by fixing the situation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALTUS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, recently, more than 1,200 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia were in Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Altus High School was the State Champions from Oklahoma and represented our State in the finals.

The distinguished members of the team that represented Oklahoma are: Ramon Carlisle, Darin Copeland, Alison Clason, Houston Green, Colin Holman, Stephen Iken, James Lambert, Stacy Lewis, Juanita Martinez,

Steffani O'Brien, David Sutherland, Shannon Taylor, and Bridget Winter.

I also would like to recognize their coaches, Rebekkah and Johnny Morrow, who deserve much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Diane Morgan, and the State coordinator, Rita Geiger also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program now in its 10th academic year, has reached more than 75,000 teachers, and 24 million students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People . . . program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. These students have honored Oklahoma in their participation in the national finals and I wish them every success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISADVANTAGED MINORITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Amendments Act of 1997. This important legislation reauthorizes the programs authorized by the enacted Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act of 1990. This measure is as relevant today as it was in 1990—when I originally introduced it in the House, and Senator KENNEDY, of Massachusetts, in the Senate.

The measure that I am introducing today reauthorizes the health professions loans; scholarships; and fellowships for disadvantaged students; the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health; the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Minority Health; and the Minority Centers of Excellence programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you know the critical nature of this legislation. While every racial and ethnic group experiences some health disparity, minorities and other disadvantaged Americans continue to suffer disproportionately higher rates of death and disease. For example: 29 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States occur in African-Americans and 16 percent in Hispanic-Americans; and every year the African-American community experiences 70,000 excess deaths. These are